

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus comprising:

a ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser medium having an outer diameter and pumped by a semiconductor laser;

a pair of fixing rings, each fixing ring being placed around ~~an~~ a respective end of the solid-state laser medium and having an inner diameter approximately equal to the outer diameter of the solid-state laser medium, and ~~formed~~ having an outer surface, at least with part ~~or all of its outer face of which is~~ tapered;

a pair of ~~rod holders~~ plates, each plate being placed around one of the fixing rings and having a tapered inner face facing the fixing ring and tapered at an angle approximately equal to the tapered outer face of the fixing ring; and

a pair of pressing members, each ~~for~~ pressing member pressing one of the fixing rings ~~to~~ against one of the ~~rod holders~~ plates on ~~it's~~ the tapered inner face and ~~also to~~ against the solid-state laser medium, ~~and for~~ fixing the solid-state laser medium to the rod holder.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus comprising:

a ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser medium having an outer diameter and pumped by a semiconductor laser;

a pair of fixing rings, each fixing ring being placed around ~~an~~ a respective end of the solid-state laser medium and having an inner diameter ~~being~~ approximately equal to the outer diameter of the solid-state laser medium, and composed of material having a Young's modulus ~~greater no smaller than or equal to~~ 300 MPa and less than the Young's modulus of the solid-state laser medium;

a pair of plate-shaped rod holders, each plate-shaped rod holder placed around one of the fixing rings and ~~each~~ having a tapered inner face; and

a pair of pressing members, each ~~for~~ pressing member pressing one of the fixing rings ~~to~~ against the tapered inner face of one of the rod holders and ~~also to~~ against the solid-state laser medium, ~~and for~~ fixing the solid-state laser medium to the rod holder.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus comprising:

a ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser medium having an outer diameter and pumped

by a semiconductor laser;

a pair of fixing rings, each fixing ring being placed around an a respective end of the solid-state laser medium and having an inner diameter being approximately equal to the outer diameter of the solid-state laser medium, and formed with including a cylindrically shaped face facing the solid-state laser medium;

a pair of plate-shaped rod holders, each plate-shaped rod holder being placed around one of the fixing rings and each having a tapered inner face; and

a pair of pressing members, each for pressing member pressing one of the fixing rings to against the tapered inner face of one of the rod holders and also to against the solid-state laser medium, and for fixing the solid-state laser medium to the rod holder.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the rod holder ~~is provided with~~ includes a space for setting retaining an O-ring, and the an O-ring being set in the space is used to seal, sealing out a coolant medium that cools the solid-state laser medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fixing ring is ~~made of~~ material having a Young's modulus greater no smaller than or equal to 300 MPa, and less than the Young's modulus of the solid-state laser medium.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, 2, or 5, wherein a face of the fixing ring, which faces the solid-state laser medium, has a cylindrical shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~rod-type~~ rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the fixing ring ~~material~~ is a fluorinated resin.

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the outer diameter is less than 4mm.

10. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising a base to which the plate-shaped rod holder is fixed by screws.

11. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the outer diameter is less than 4mm.

12. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the rod holder includes a space for retaining an O-ring and an O-ring set in the space sealing out a coolant medium that cools the solid-state laser medium.

13. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a face of the fixing ring, which faces the solid-state laser medium, has a cylindrical shape.

14. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the fixing ring is a fluorinated resin.

15. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a base to which the plate-shaped rod holder is fixed by screws.

16. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the outer diameter is less than 4mm.

17. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the rod holder includes a space for retaining an O-ring and an O-ring set in the space sealing out a coolant medium that cools the solid-state laser medium.

18. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the fixing ring is a fluorinated resin.

19. (New) The rod-shaped solid-state laser apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a base to which the plate-shaped rod holder is fixed by screws.